

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-34 are pending in this case.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 9, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by Yoshikawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,128,461); Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Yagi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,940,661, herein "Yagi"); Claims 4-8, 12-16 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Hisakuni (U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,589); Claims 18-21 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. as unpatentable over Yoshikawa in view of Hisakuni et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,311,037).

Initially, applicants and applicants' representative thank Primary Examiner Ngo for the interview held on April 19, 2005 to discuss the present case. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and the cited references were discussed in detail. The Examiner agreed that the claims overcome the art of record.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 9, and 22 as anticipated by Yoshikawa, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a cleaning unit "wherein an amplitude of a waveform at an edge of the cleaning blade is not greater than 40 μ m with respect to a downstream side of a direction of movement of the image carrier."

In contrast, Yoshikawa describes an image forming apparatus including a vibration applying device 15 configured to cause cleaning blade 3 to vibrate.¹ Yoshikawa describes the measurement of the amplitude of vibration in *a direction normal to the surface of the drum*.² Specifically, Yoshikawa describes that the data graphed in Figures 4A, 4B, and 4C was

¹See Yoshikawa, Abstract and Figure 2.

²See Yoshikawa, column 7, line 21 to column 8, line 28.

measured by a laser beam irradiating an edge portion of a cleaning blade from *a substantially normal direction to the photosensitive drum*.³ Further, Yoshikawa states that the vibration amplitude should be small in the direction normal to the surface of the drum.⁴ Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Yoshikawa does not teach or suggest a cleaning unit “wherein an amplitude of a waveform at an edge of the cleaning blade is not greater than 40 μ m with respect to *a downstream side of a direction of movement of the image carrier*,” as recited in Claim 1. As none of Yagi, Hisakuni, Hisakuni et al. are relied upon as teaching the above-recited element, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and Claims 2-8 dependent therefrom) is patentable over any combination of Yoshikawa, Yagi, Hisakuni, and/or Hisakuni et al.

Independent Claims 9 and 22 also recite “wherein an amplitude of a waveform at an edge of the cleaning blade is not greater than 40 μ m with respect to a downstream side of a direction of movement of the image carrier.” Accordingly, Claims 9 and 22 (and Claims 10-21 and 23-34 dependent therefrom) are also believed to be patentable over Yoshikawa, Yagi, Hisakuni, and/or Hisakuni et al.

³See Yoshikawa, column 7, lines 29-33.

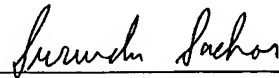
⁴See Yoshikawa, column 8, lines 25-28.

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Accordingly, the pending claims and the present application are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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